

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed August 7, 2003, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration based on the above claim amendments and the following remarks. Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments and remarks contained herein place the instant application in condition for allowance.

In the Office Action, claims 1-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 4,959,855 to Daudelin ("Daudelin") in view U.S. Patent 6,327,346 to Infosino ("Infosino"). Applicants traverse the rejections as follows.

Applicants have herein amended claim 1 to clarify that the intelligent resource server is for receiving a communication with a message including information regarding a *calling* party requested by a *called* telecommunications user, for playing an audible message for the *called* telecommunications user, the audible message containing the information regarding the *calling* party and prompting the *called* telecommunications user to place an outgoing communication to the *calling* party, and for automatically recognizing a predetermined keyword spoken by the *called* telecommunications user in response to the audible message by digitizing the *called* telecommunications user's response and comparing the digitized response to a set of coded waveforms corresponding to predetermined keywords. (*emphasis added*).

Applicants submit that claim 1, as amended, is not obvious in view of Daudelin and Infosino because the references, either alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest each and every element of claim 1. *See MPEP § 2142* (stating that one of the elements of a *prima facie* case of obviousness is that "the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations").

Daudelin is directed to a directory assistance system, wherein the directory assistance system provides a *calling* party with the option of connecting to a desired *called* party after the

calling party receives directory listing information concerning the *called* party. *See Daudelin, col. 1, ll. 49-55.* Although the directory assistance system described in the Daudelin reference utilizes voice processing units to prompt the calling party and to detect the calling party's response to such prompts, nowhere does the Daudelin reference teach or suggest, among other things, an intelligent resource server for playing a message for the *called* party that identifies the *calling* party. Rather, the Daudelin reference concerns prompting the calling party to respond to the called party's directory listing information via a speech recognition component that the calling party receives and inputs.

By necessary implication, therefore, Daudelin also fails to teach or suggest, among other things, recognizing a predetermined keyword spoken by the *called* party in response to the identification of the *calling* party, as recited in amended claim 1. Simply put, if Daudelin does not teach or suggest the playing of a message identifying the *calling* party for the *called* party, the reference cannot teach or suggest detecting a response by the *called* party.

Infosino is directed to customized call processing based on voice identification of users, who are registered in a user profile database. *See Infosino, col. 1, ll. 25-33.* Applicants submit that the Infosino reference is of no aid to the Office in establishing a prima facie case of obviousness because it too, like Daudelin, fails to teach or suggest, among other things, an intelligent resource server for playing a message for the *called* party that identifies the *calling* party. Nor did the Office rely on the Infosino reference for disclosing or suggesting such a feature.

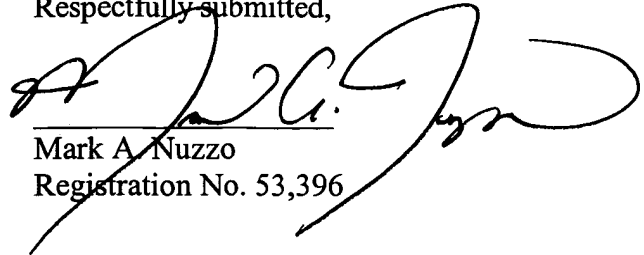
Therefore, Applicants submit that claim 1 is not obvious in view of Daudelin and Infosino. Further, Applicants submit that claims 2-7, which depend from claim 1, are also nonobvious in view of the references cited in the Office Action. *See MPEP § 2143.03* (if an independent claim is nonobvious under 35 U.S.C. §103, then any claim depending therefrom is nonobvious).

Independent claims 8, 16, 20 and 24 have also been amended to contain language similar to amended claim 1. Therefore, for reasons analogous to those set forth previously with respect to claim 1, Applicants submit that independent claims 8, 16, 20 and 24, as well as their respective dependent claims, are not obvious in view of the cited references.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request issuance of a Notice of Allowance for the subject application. If the Examiner is of the opinion that the subject application is in condition for disposition other than allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below, in order that the Examiner's concerns may be expeditiously addressed.

Respectfully submitted,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark A. Nuzzo', is written over the typed name and registration number.

Mark A. Nuzzo
Registration No. 53,396

KIRKPATRICK & LOCKHART LLP
Henry W. Oliver Building
535 Smithfield Street
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15222-2312
Telephone: (412) 355-6292
Facsimile: (412) 355-6501
e-mail: mnuzzo@kl.com